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SOURCE Soviet newspapers as indicated. (Information requested.)

LATVIAN STEEL PLANT PLANS INCREASE - Sovetskaya Latvija, No 2, 3 Jan 49

The "Krasnyy Metallurg" Plant in Lipeysk has reached the 1950 production level. The 1948 gross production plan was fulfilled 140 percent. The plant saved 1,089,000 rubles above plan in 11 months of 1948. A 35-percent increase in production over 1948 is planned for 1949.

LENINGRAD KIROV PLANT UPS PRODUCTION -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 50, 2 Mar 49

The Kirov Machine-Building and Metallurgical Plant in Leningrad fulfilled the 1948 plan by 7 November. The 1948 gross production plan was exceeded 36.8 percent and the plan for commodity production 30.4 percent. Commodity production was twice as high as in 1947.

Labor efficiency increased 30 percent in 1948 in the production of rolled steel, and 25 percent in steel production. The 1948 plan for labor efficiency was surpassed 29.9 percent by the entire plant.

The plant introduced serial production of tractor-trailers designed at the plant.

In an effort to lower production costs, the plant saved 14,593,000 rubles above plan in 1948, as well as 5,890,000 kilowatt-hours of electric power and 9,196 tons of fuel.

STALINO OBLAST KICKED PLAN -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 29, 5 Feb 49

The State production plan for January was surpassed by most Stalin Oblast industries. All leading branches of industry made considerable increase in production volume. Compared with January 1948, coal output increased 14.5 percent, pig-iron smelting 19.5 percent, steel 42 percent, rolled steel 62.5 percent, pipe rolling 18.2 percent, and coking 28.7 percent.

11

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SECRET

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MAGNITOGORSK STEEL BEATS PLAN -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 2, 4 Jan 49

Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine fulfilled the 1948 plan for production of pig iron, steel, and rolled steel, as well as for coking and ore mining, on 16 December. In 1948, the Combine produced 200,000 tons of ore, 420,000 tons of coke, 190,000 tons of pig iron, 300,000 tons of steel, and 190,000 tons of rolled steel above the 1947 production volume. Magnitogorsk metallurgical workers, during 1948 reached the 1950 production level for ore mining, coking, steel smelting, and steel rolling. The Combine saved 51 million rubles above plan in 11 months of 1948.

Krasnaya Zvezda, No 25, 1 Feb 49

On 31 January Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine fulfilled the January plan for the complete metallurgical cycle as well as for ore mining and coke production. Open-hearth furnace and rolling-mill operators are working at the level set for 1950.

KAZAKH PLANTS SET FASTER PACE -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 1, 1 Jan 49

The Kazakh Metallurgical Plant in Temir-Tau started production on 31 December 1944. Operation has greatly improved in the last 4 years. The smelting period was considerably shortened during 1948, and the smelting weight increased 20 percent. The average amount of steel obtained per square meter of furnace sole was increased to 4.1 tons, as against 3.2 tons planned. Rolling of steel ingots was speeded up 25 percent. About 8 million rubles of savings above plan were accumulated. This was 2,800,000 rubles more than pledged.

By the end of 1948, the plant had exceeded the planned 1950 production level for steel and rolled steel. On 31 December, construction and assembly of the third open-hearth furnace was completed at the plant. The new furnace will be put into operation soon.

Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 27, 9 Feb 49

Steel smelting, which was started in one shift in the open-hearth furnace shop of the Kazakh Metallurgical Plant, frequently had to be completed during the following shift. This reduced responsibility of steel workers for the quality of the metal and for speeding up the smelting period.

Recently a new scheme has been tried whereby each steel worker completes smelting from charging the furnace to pouring the steel. This will considerably shorten the time required for each smelting.

Steel workers are competing to shorten the smelting period. Two workers have succeeded in reducing the time of the process one hour and 45 minutes. The amount of steel produced per square meter of open-hearth sole increased 15 percent over 1948.

SAVES 17 MILLION RUBLES -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 1, 1 Jan 49

The Aktyubinsk Ferroalloy Plant produced over 1,500 tons of ferro-alloys above plan in 1948. Consumption of electric power was lowered 9.5 percent, as against 8 percent pledged. Labor efficiency increased 19 percent. Savings above plan, according to preliminary estimates, amounted to more than 17 million rubles.

- 2 -

SECRET

SECRET

50X1-HUM

NEW MINE SECTION OPENED IN FAR EAST -- Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda, No 16, 20 Jan 49

The Nizhne-Amur Oblast newspaper Krasnyy Mayak has reported the opening of a new section, deep in the taiga, in the Kolchan mine. A new bore hole in this section showed an industrial metal content in the summer of 1947, and the first brigade of prospectors was sent there in March 1948. Since then, an entire settlement has been built. Construction of a club and housing for engineers and technicians will be started soon. Mechanization is being given particular attention. A hydraulic ore concentrator is being equipped for operation this spring and will be supplied with water from an elevated tank.

RARE METAL MINES PUSH EFFICIENCY MEASURES -- Bol'shevik Altaya, No 3, 5 Jan 49

Miners of "Ubarsmet" (rare metals), Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, exceeded the 1948 plan for mining ore 16 percent, the plan for mine preparatory work 127 percent, and the plan for cutting 74 percent. Production costs decreased 34.8 percent. The Kaindy Mine (chief, Danilov) took the lead in the competition.

Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 23, 4 Feb 49

Baty, Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast -- the "Kalsbaredmet" (rare metals) Mine Administration has pledged to accelerate the production cycle 15 days and to turn over for the use of the State more than 700,000 rubles by mechanizing labor processes and by exploiting new production equipment. Measures are planned to further increase productivity, to reduce consumption of materials, and to effect prompt shipments of mine output.

COPPER SMELTING PLANT COMPLETES PLAN -- Bol'shevik Altaya, No 3, 5 Jan 49

The Irtysh Copper Smelting Plant completed the 1948 plan on 5 December and increased extraction of copper 7 percent in 1948 over 1940. Labor productivity increased 20 percent above plan and cost of one ton of metal decreased 8.2 percent. The plant realized 6,600,000 rubles in savings in 1948. Workers have pledged to complete the plan for the first 2 months of 1949 by 25 February and to achieve the 1950 level of production by 1 July.

MOLYBDENUM MINERS IN SPECIAL EFFORT -- Moleloy Dal'nevostochnik, No 6, 18 Jan 49

S. Sukhonosova, secretary of the Umal'ta Mine Committee of the VLKSM, Verkhne-Bureyskiy [Verkhne-Bureyskiy] Rayon reports that miners of Umal'ta are making a special effort in honor of the 11th Congress of the VLKSM on 24 February. The Komsomol brigade in the machine shop has been awarded the Transferable Red Banner of the Rayon Committee of the VLKSM for taking the lead in competition. Komsomols of the Umal'ta Mine saved 250,000 rubles above plan in 1948.

FAR EAST GOLD MINERS BOOST MINE PLEDGES -- Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda, No 21, 27 Jan 49

Settlement imeni P. Osipenko -- Prospectors of the Kerbi Gold Mine have increased their pledges. The Congren Section did the best work in the first half of January and has worked out a mining schedule. Three Stakhanovites of the mine completed the 6-month quota in one week. Procurement of wood for the dredge is progressing satisfactorily.

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